

CHINA

Established February, 1845.

MAIL.

Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List. Published every Evening.

VOL XXXII. No. 3990. 5c

十月四日大十七百八千一

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1876.

日七十月三十子丙

Price, \$24 per annum.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.
LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 8, Clement's Lane,
Lambeth Street, George Street, 30,
Cornhill, Gordon & Gough, 121, Hol-
born Hill, E.C., Baines, Bixby & Co.,
4, Old Bailey, E.C., SAMUEL DIACON &
Co., 150 & 164, Leadenhall Street.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIRD, 183, Na-
sau Street.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW
ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOUGH, Mel-
bourne and Sydney.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports
generally.—BEAM & BLACK, San Fran-
cisco.

CHINA.—Sawtooth, Quelch & Campbell,
Anson, Giles & Co., Foochow, Hedges
& Co., Shanghai, Lane, Crawford
& Co., and Kelly & Co., Manila, C.
Hinckley & Co., Macao, L. A. da
Gama.

BANKS.

COMPTOIR DES COMPTES DE PARIS.

INCORPORATED BY NATIONAL DECREES OF
7TH AND 8TH MARCH, 1848.

BY IMPERIAL DECREES OF 25TH JULY, 1854,
AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1866.

Recognized by the
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF
30TH APRIL, 1862.

French, £ Sterling.
PAID-UP CAPITAL, ... 80,000,000 8,200,000
RESERVE FUND, ... 40,000,000 500,000

HEAD OFFICE.—14, Rue Bergère, Paris.
LONDON AGENT.—144, Leadenhall St.,
E.C.

AGENTS.—At Nantes, Lyons, Mar-
seilles, Brussels, Bombay, Calcutta,
St. Denis (Ile de la Réunion), Hong
kong, Shanghai and Yokohama.
LONDON BANKERS.—Bank of England,
Union Bank of London.

HONGKONG AGENCY.
INTEREST ALLOWED

ON Current Deposit Account at the rate
of 2 per cent. per annum on the
monthly minimum balances, and on Fixed
Deposits at rates which may be ascertained
at the office.

CHR. DE GUIGNÉ,
Manager.

Office in Hongkong: Bank Buildings,
Queen's Road,
Hongkong, May 14, 1876.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK-
ING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, ... 5,000,000 Dollars.
RESERVE FUND, ... 100,000 Dollars.

COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman.—E. R. BELILOIS, Esq.
Deputy Chairman.—AD. ANDRÉ, Esq.
J. B. CORDES, Esq. S. W. POMEROY, Esq.
H. HOPKINS, Esq. F. D. SASBROOK, Esq.
A. MOLIER, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.

Hongkong, JAMES GREGG, Esq.
Manager,

Shanghai, EWAN CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County
Bank.

HONGKONG.
INTEREST ALLOWED

ON Current Deposit Accounts at the rate
of 1 per cent. per annum on the daily
balance.

ON Fixed Deposits.—
For 3 months, 2 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent. " "
" 12 " 5 per cent. " "

Local Bills DISCOUNTED.

Credit granted on approved Securities,
and every description of Banking and
Exchange business transacted.

Drifts, granted on London, and the
chief Commercial places in Europe, India,
Australia, America, China and Japan.

JAMES GREGG,
Chief Manager.

Office of the Corporation,
No. 1, Queen's Road East,
Hongkong, February 17, 1876.

ON SALE.

THE
CHINESE READER'S MANUAL.

A HANDBOOK of Biographical, His-
torical, Mythological and General
Literary Reference,
BY
WILLIAM FREDERICK MATHERS.

Price, 5s.

Shanghai, KELLY & Co.
Hongkong, " CHINA MAIL OFFICE,"

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.
I have this day authorized Mr. J. Y. V.
SHAW to sign my name per procure-
ment.

A. MAGG, HEATON.

Hongkong, January 1, 1876.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned have entered into Co-
partnership from the First day of
January, 1876, in the Business of Ship-
brokers at this Port, under the style of
MORRIS & RAY.

A. G. MORRIS.
E. C. RAY.

Bank Buildings,
Hongkong, February 8, 1876.

NOTICE.

WE have established branches of our
Firm at Haiphong and Hanoi. Mr.
L. CONSTANTIN is authorized to sign by
procurement in Tonquin.

LANDSTEIN & Co.

Hongkong, December 31, 1875.

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day established myself as
GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
at the Ports of Takow and Tsinanfu.

P. B. DA SILVA.

Formosa, April 1, 1876.

NOTIFICATION.

IT is herewith notified that a CUSTOM
HOUSE has been established at
HOI-HOW (海口), the Treaty Port of
KIUNGCHOW (欽州), and has been
opened for transactiion of Business under
this day's date.

H. O. BROWN,
Commissioner of Customs.

Kiungchow Customs:
Hongkong, April 1, 1876.

Intimations.

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELE-
GRAPH COMPANY.

DURING my absence from Hongkong
the MANAGEMENT of the above
Company's Station will be TAKEN OVER
by Mr. C. C. BEJESSEN, who has been
appointed ACTING SUPERINTENDENT.

A. SUMMONS,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, April 6, 1876.

NOTICE.

THE OFFICE of the Undersigned has
been REMOVED to BURD'S LANE.

MEYER, ALABOR & Co.

Hongkong, April 8, 1876.

NOTICE.

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELE-
GRAPH COMPANY.

I BEG to notify that I have been appointed
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT for the
above Company's Station at this Port
from this date.

CARL CHR. BOJESSEN.

Hongkong, April 6, 1876.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

A SPECIAL AGENCY of the Company has
been opened in LONDON, under the
management of Mr. WALDEMAR SCHMIDT,
at 3, St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill.

By Order,

W. H. BAY,
Secretary.

Hongkong, March 28, 1876.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that all CREDIT-
ORS and other Persons having any
CLAIMS or DEMANDS upon or
against the Estate of JOHN WUTHER-
SPOON, late of Bangkok, in the Kingdom of
Siam, who died on the 6th day of July,
1871, and whose Will was duly proved in
the Probate Jurisdiction of the Supreme
Court of Hongkong by WILLIAM HENRY
BEERETTON, of 28, Queen's Road, Hong-
kong, Solicitor, to whom Letters of Adminis-
tration with the Will annexed were duly
granted by the said Court on the 10th day
of March, 1876, are hereby required to
SEND in writing the PARTICULARS of
their Claims or Demands to the said WILL-
IAM HENRY BEERETTON, on or before the
1st day of July next; and notice is hereby
also given, that at the expiration of the last
mentioned day the said WILLIAM HENRY
BEERETTON will proceed to distribute the
Assets of the said JOHN WUTHERSPOON
amongst the parties entitled thereto, having
regard to the Claims of which he has then
had notice; and that the said WILLIAM
HENRY BEERETTON will not be liable for the
Assets or any part thereof so distributed to
any person of whose Claims he has not
had notice at the time of the distribution.

Dated this 28th day of March, 1876.

W. H. BEERETTON,

28, Queen's Road, Hongkong;

Solicitor.

SPANISH CONSULATE, HONGKONG.

TENDERS for the CONSTRUCTION of
SIX BOILERS for Spanish Men-of-
War will be RECEIVED at this Consulate
until the 22nd April next, at Noon.

No proposition will be admitted if it
exceed the price fixed by Government and
do not agree with the Form, Conditions,
and Plans, which will be exposed at the
Office of the Consulate every working day
from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A. FARAUJO,

Consul for Spain.

Hongkong, March 31, 1876.

Price, 5s.

Intimations.

STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED, OF HANLEY.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £250,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appoint-
ed Agents in Hongkong and Shanghai
for the above Company, are prepared to
issue Policies of Fire Insurance at current
rates.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

Hongkong, March 24, 1876.

je24

THE MERCHANTS' MARINE INSUR-
ANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
OF LONDON.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £500,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appoint-
ed Agents in Hongkong and Shanghai
for the above Company, are prepared to
issue Policies of Fire Insurance at current
rates.

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

Hongkong, April 8, 1876.

je24

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ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

Hongkong, April 8, 1876.

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ADAMSON, BELL & Co.

Hongkong, April 8, 1876.

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THE MERCHANTS' MARINE INSUR-
ANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
OF LONDON.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £500,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appoint

For Sale.

FOR SALE.

THE UNDERTIONED LAND AND BUILDINGS.
AT HONGKONG.

INLAND Lot 82.—The well-known House and Offices lately occupied by Messrs A. Heard & Co., adjoining the Cathedral Compound.

The Ground below the masonry retaining wall of the above, abutting on the Queen's Road.

Annual Crown rent, \$380.48.

MANOR Lot 111, WANCHAI.—First-class and extensive Godowns.

Annual Crown rent, \$324.

AT YOKOHAMA:

LOTS NO. 6 AND NO. 27 in the Foreign Settlement.

No. 6 is situated on the Bund, and comprises an eight-roomed Dwelling House, detached, with Garden all round, Offices, Godowns, Servants' Quarters and Outhouses.

Area 1,064. Tubs of 36 square feet.

Annual Ground rent, \$233.79.

No. 27 is separated from No. 6 by Water Street and comprises large Tea Firing and other Godowns, Flax Silk Press, Comptore's Quarters, Stabling and Fire Engine House.

Area, 554 Tubs.

Ground rent, \$154.97 per annum.

Applications for purchase, or further information, to be made to

J. WHITTALL,
T. G. LINSTEAD,
Trustees A. Heard & Co.'s Estate,
23, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

Hongkong, February 1, 1876. myl

FOR SALE.

THE whole of the Property known as FLETCHER'S, Situate on Marine Lot Nos. 20 and 21, and covering an area of 121,304 square feet.

Annual Crown Rent about \$1,000.

Taxes, 1,000.

For further information, apply to

THE BORNEO CO., LIMITED.

Hongkong, April 4, 1876. ap18

FOR SALE.

THE Undermentioned valuable LAND and BUILDINGS on Inland Lot No. 7, situated at 46 and 48, Queen's Road, the Property of the late Mr. G. B. FALCONER.

THE TWO BLOCKS of BUILDINGS occupying the finest position, are of the most commodious description, with Terrace and ample Godowns; the Ground Floors are of Granite, the Buildings are known to be the most handsome and substantially built Premises in the Colony, and are all in perfect condition and good order, &c.

Applications for Purchase, or further information, to be made to

JOHN NOBLE,
46, Queen's Road,
Hongkong, March 30, 1876. ap30

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR SAIGON.

The Steamer

"CHEOPS"

will leave for the above Port at 2 p.m., TO-MORROW, the 12th instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, April 11, 1876. ap12

DEPARTURES.

April 11, Amoy, for Canton.

CLEARED.

Kwangtung, for Swatow, &c.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per "Bombay" from Yoko-

hama, Mr and Mrs Lockyer and 2 children,

Messrs Hodgen, Grove and Woodhead,

7 Chinese and 2 distressed seamen.

Por "Viking" Mr T. Anthony, from Lon-

don; Capt. Hutchinson, and 28 Chinese,

from Singapore.

Per "Amoy" 2 cabin, 1 European deck and 64 Chinese.

Per "Oxfordshire" 6 Chinese.

To DEPART.—Per "Kwangtung," 300 Chi-

nes.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British barque "Marquis of Argyll" reports: light variable winds and fine weather throughout.

The French steamer "Asia" reports: first part of passage had fine weather, latter part strong N.N.W. winds, with one day heavy fog. Passed French mail steamer "Hooley" on 8th at 7 a.m.

The British steamer "Bombay" reports: strong winds to Van Dieman's Straits, fine and then dense fog and variable winds.

The British steamer "Amoy" reports: variable winds and foggy weather throughout the passage. Passed Co. str. "Ningpo" of China, on 10 p.m. on 7th; "Yangtze" at 1 p.m. on 9th of October; French Mail at 6 p.m. same day, off the Brothers; the str. "Agamemnon" and "Lord of the Isles" at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, and "Chinkiang" at 11 p.m. off Pedro Blanco.

The British steamer "Viking" reports: left Gravesend on Feb. 26, passed through the Downs same evening, had moderate winds and fine weather up to our arrival at Port Said on the 9th of March. Left Sues on 12th March, and arrived at Singapore on Saturday, 1st April and left on 5th. Fore part of passage up the China Sea for N.E. winds and squally with rain. Latter part light E. winds and calms. In lat. 11.31 N. long. 113.30 E., spoke H.M.S. "Juno" bound to Hongkong, and the sailing ship "City of Quebec," bound South.

The British str. "Oxfordshire" reports: light E. winds and thick weather.

POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

MAILS will close:—

For HONOLULU.—Per Barque "COLOMBO" at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 12th Inst.

For SAIGON.—Per "CHEOPS" at 1.30 p.m. To-morrow, the 12th instant.

For YOKOHAMA.—Per "ORCHIS" at 2.30 p.m. To-morrow, the 12th instant; instead of as previously notified.

For AMOY.—Per "GUNGA" at 4.30 p.m. To-morrow, the 12th instant.

For SINGAPORE, PENANG & CAL-
CUTTA.—For Indian Mail Packets "HINDOSTAN" and "ARGYLL" at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, the 16th Inst.

For YOKOHAMA & SAN FRANCISCO.—For "QUANGSE" at 2.30 p.m. on Monday, the 17th instant, instead of as previously notified.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 6.

CHINA SEA:

NEPHIS ROCK BEACON.—NINOSH DIAHOU.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Nephis Rock Beacon, No. 26 of the 1873 List of Chinese Lights, Buoys and Beacons, has been carried away and that it will be temporarily replaced by a Red Buoy moored off the Reef extending to the N. E. of the most easterly point of the New Island.

By order of the Inspector General of Customs,

DAVID M. HENDERSON,
Engineer-in-Chief.

IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS,
Engineer's Office,
Shanghai, April 5, 1876. ap18

To-day's Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction, on

MONDAY NEXT,
the 17th April, 1876, at Noon.—
By order of the Mortgagors.

WOODY LIGHTER—Official No. 64120;—Length 81 feet, Breadth 20 feet, Depth of Hold 8 feet, Gross Tonnage 43 1/2 tons; Carrying Capacity about 150 tons Dead-weight, with all Fittings, &c., as she lies in the harbour.

WOODY LIGHTER—Official No. 64121;—Length 61 1/2 feet, Breadth 16 1/2 feet, Depth of Hold 6 feet, Gross Tonnage 43 1/2 tons; Carrying Capacity about 50 tons Dead-weight, with all Fittings, &c., as she lies in the harbour.

(On account of the concerned.)
One Large Iron Life BOAT.
One Large ship's BOAT.
Saved from the wreck of the Steamer

"Glengyle."

At present lying on Messrs J. INGLIS & Co.'s premises, Wanchi.

The Lighters and Boats will be moored off Ice House Lane, where the Sale will take place.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash before delivery in Mexican Dollars, weighed at 7.1. All lots, with all faults and errors of description, at Purchasers' risk on the fall of the hammer.

W. KERFOOT HUGHES,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, April 11, 1876. ap17

WANTED.

A N Experienced European FEMALE to accompany a Family with 3 Children to England. Terms, a free Passage.

Applications to be sent to the Office of this paper, addressed "A. B. C."

Hongkong, April 11, 1876. myl

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

April 10, "Marquis of Argyll," Brit. bark, 500, McLean, Bangkok March 6, Rice.—CHINESE.

April 11, Asia, French steamer, 680, A. Pataeu, Saigon April 5, Rice.—SIEMSEN & Co.

April 11, "Bombay," British steamer, 1827, H. E. Smith, Yokohama Apr. 4, 5.40 a.m., Mails and General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

April 11, "Amoy," British steamer, 814, Drawee, Shanghai April 7, 10 a.m., General.—SIEMSEN & Co.

April 11, "Viking," British steamer, 1840, G. L. Castle, London Feb. 29, via ports of call, and Singapore April 6, General.—GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

April 11, "Oxfordshire," British steamer, 1226, D. P. Jones, Nagasaki April 5, General.—JARDINE, MATHERSON & Co.

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NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 6.

a favour, but the favour it was proposed to grant them would do no harm to any one else, and if it did harm to the shareholders of the Company then they had the satisfaction of knowing that they had asked for it themselves through their directors. He had taken care to provide himself with a table of the various shares held by local insurance Companies doing marine business. The Union Insurance Society headed the list with shares of \$2,500, of which \$500 are paid up. The China Traders' Company had shares of \$6000, or exactly double the value of those held by the Union Insurance Society. The North China Insurance Company had shares of the nominal value of Taels 2,000, which was again half the value of the shares of the China Traders' Company. The Yangtze Insurance Association had shares of the value of Taels 500 only, and the Chinese Insurance Company, limited, shares of the value of \$1,000. The Fire Insurance Companies were less again; the China Fire Insurance Company's shares were only \$600; and the only insurance office that had its shares of the same nominal value as those of the China Traders' Company was the Canton Insurance Company, and that was a company of a different character altogether. If he understood members who had spoken, one of the objections to this measure was that \$1,500 or \$1,600 was too small an amount for the shares, but that it would be to the advantage of this Company and nobody else to make this reduction. Now unless there was some special ground by which the public would be injured by the passing of that measure he could see no reason why that Bill should not be carried forward. It was a very different thing when the general measure was before the Council a short time ago. It was then objected that there was a general power of reduction to the smallest amount, and that was an objection which no doubt had great weight upon the face of it. But here it was simply proposed that one Company should be allowed to reduce its shares in value from \$5,000 to \$1,600, or thereabouts, and it was not shown in any way how this would be a detriment to the public, while at the same time it would be a great advantage to the Company. For his own part he should think that so long as the shares were worth three hundred guineas they were quite high enough in value to ensure the holders of them being respectable people. He submitted that the Company were not asking for anything out of the way in applying to that Council to relieve them in the manner proposed. The other marine insurance companies alluded to could not in any way be compared with the China Traders' Company. This Company was a limited Company, whereas all the others, with the exception of the Chinese Insurance Company, were unlimited Companies.

The Chief Justice said that as a lawyer, and having certain views with respect to Joint stock Companies, he rose to address a few remarks on the subject to His Excellency. He did not think it was his duty to enter into the question of rivalry between different Companies; his business was as a judge, and in that character, and that character only, as a member of that Council, his duty was to see that what he conceived to be the law with regard to ordinances was properly pursued. He did not pretend to say that he might not be in error in the views which he might take; of course he was liable to great error, but he did not come before that Council without some special knowledge upon these matters. Long before he arrived in this Colony he had been Counsel before the House of Lords, and he had seen the practice he pursued before the Committee of the House on a private bill become the practice there, and on one occasion, he might say, the present Lord Chief Justice of England handed him his brief, in preference to others, to stand in his place. He did therefore know the practice in England with regard to private Bills, and this was especially a private Bill. It might be that the practice here in regard to private Bills was not laid down in regulations; it was not usual for that to be done in Colonies. But what he conceived was that this was a private Bill; there could be no doubt about that. Now a private Bill was a judicial proceeding, which created rights in the individual seeking those rights, and it took away rights from others who might be affected thereby; the case was an exceedingly clear one. In England whenever there was a private Bill brought forward, a Committee of the House sat in a judicial capacity upon it, were addressed by Counsel and witnesses were examined upon oath, and if a fact was recited in the Bill as a fact it must be proved, otherwise that occurred, which constantly had occurred in England—the motion was that the preamble of the Bill had not been proved. That was the position now in the present instance, the time had not yet come to prove the preamble of this Bill. No private Bill in England was ever passed without evidence being taken. The law had clearly laid down in Blackstone that private Acts of Parliament, and this is a private Act.

The Colonial Secretary—I deny it entirely.

The Chief Justice said the Colonial Secretary denied that entirely, but as a matter of law, he stated it to be a fact. He said that in substance it was only for the benefit of a particular person or rather a *quæst* corporation, which was the same thing; it was for the benefit of, so to speak, an individual, and it was for his benefit as against the whole world. If it were not a private Act of Parliament he did not know what one was. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary would define what a private Act of Parliament was. This was, he contended, a private Act of Parliament. If, when evidence was taken on a private Bill before a Committee of the House there was a failure to prove the recital then the whole Bill failed. (After reading a passage in Blackstone—it might be that every Company in England had the power to carry out what this company was seeking power to do, but it should be remembered that different conditions of things existed in this colony to what prevailed in England. Then it was said that this Company came there by their Directors; what evidence had he of that? where was the position of the Company?—) It was the directors, with the seal of the Company attached, to prove that the Company, were entitled, seeking the powers it was proposed to give them. And supposing that they had all this before them, according to the book he held in his hand, every individual whether it was liked or not, when the Company came there to ask for extra powers, had an extra right to oppose them. It could not be considered that they had a petition before them; for anything they might be the Act of any individual.

For Amendment,
Hon. F. Ryrie.

going to the Government and asking for this Bill to be introduced.

The Attorney General said they had the guarantee of the Government in the matter. The Chief Justice said he had the greatest respect for the Government, and he did not think it would do anything but what it thought right and proper, but it did not follow that all these details had been considered by the Government. All that he wanted was that they should proceed regularly, and according to the practice at home so far as they could according to analogy. They could appoint a special Committee to investigate the matter; and they could then hear whether the statements in the recital were facts. It was stated there that the whole of the shares had been issued—they did not know that as a fact; and that the sum of \$1,500 had been paid up on each share—they did not know that as a fact, although as legislators they alleged so in the Bill. He was inclined to think, in fact, there was no doubt, that insurance companies should have shares in a large amount, but perhaps \$6,000 was too much; what he was afraid was in these companies, got up among the Chinese was, that by and by they would have companies formed with one or two dollar shares, a most admirable way of evading the law. What he wanted done was, and he should be exceedingly glad, to prohibit all Companies to be formed hereafter, to have a less capital than a certain sum, and to prohibit all companies at present formed from lowering their capital below a certain sum. A minimum should be stated, below which they should not go. At the present he would not vote with the honorable members who had proposed that the Bill should be thrown out, because he was in the position of not having evidence either one way or the other, and according to practice they could not come to that vote until they had seen that the parties seeking relief in this matter could prove their recital or not. If they could prove their recital then there would be the question of the sum to which they wished to reduce the shares. The principle he wished to see introduced was that Companies already formed should be prevented from lowering their shares beyond a certain sum and that notice should be given that the world at large might have the chance of stating their views before the Council.

The Hon. J. G. Austin seconded the motion.

H. E. then proposed to adjourn the consideration of this bill *sine die*, so as to allow all persons interested, even those in Europe, to state their views, as suggested by the Hon. W. Keswick, to state their views.

The Chief Justice then formally moved that the Company should appear before the bar of the Council, either by Counsel or otherwise, to prove the allegations set forth in the preamble, on a certain day, and that notice should be given that the world at large might have the chance of stating their views before the Council.

The Hon. J. G. Austin seconded the motion.

H. E. then proposed to adjourn the consideration of this bill *sine die*, so as to allow all persons interested, even those in Europe, to state their views, as suggested by the Hon. W. Keswick, to state their views.

The Chief Justice suggested that in addition to the advertisement the Company should be required to send an *ice* through the post office to all the shareholders, and to those assured.

The Hon. J. G. Austin thought the Company should not be required to do more than what a company in England would have been required to do under existing circumstances.

The motion of adjournment was then put and carried.

After some discussion, the further consideration of this bill was postponed till next Saturday week at 10 a.m., when the officials of the Company would have to appear before the Council and be examined on the points on which proof was required.

ORDINANCE REPEALING OR INANE
NO. 1876.

H. E. then proposed the first reading of the following ordinance:

An Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1876.

Whereas difficulty is anticipated in carrying out the Ordinance No. 1 of 1876 at some of the Coast Ports, and it is expedient to repeal the same with the view of making further provision in that behalf: Be it enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

I. The Ordinance No. 1 of 1876 is hereby repealed, and the enactments thereto repealed, are, from the date of the passing hereof, revived as if the said Ordinance had not been passed.

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

It is feared that vessels may occasionally leave the Coast Ports upon voyages of less than thirty days' duration, under circumstances which preclude the possibility of their applying to the Governor of this Colony for licences to carry Chinese emigrants. As under the law as contained in the Ordinance lately passed, Chinese passenger ships could not legally go to sea without licences, it is intended to submit to the Council a provision enabling Emigration Officers at the Coast Ports to grant licences under certain restricted conditions for single voyages of limited duration; and as such a provision must be reserved for His Majesty's confirmation, the present short Ordinance has been prepared, reverting in the meantime to the former state of the law.—JOHN BRAMSTON, Attorney General.

H. E. then proposed the first reading of this Ordinance.

The Hon. J. Bramston, in response to His Excellency, then gave an explanation of the object of the Ordinance. He said it might be remembered that at the last meeting, an ordinance was passed regarding Chinese Passenger Ships and the Conveyance of Chinese Passengers. By this Ordinance, all vessels carrying Chinese passengers must take out a licence, but a difficulty in connection with the coasting steamers complying with this provision having been pointed out to the Government, the present Ordinance was proposed to remedy the difficulty. It was thought that the best way to meet the difficulty was to give power to the Consular Officers of the different ports on the China Coast to issue licences to passenger ships, but as this could not be done without the confirmation of the measure by His Majesty, this ordinance was proposed to the Governor to bring in the Bill, and he brought it in. In one sense it was a private Bill—it was for private interests. He thought that every Company should have power to reduce its shares upon the principle of ruling in England, and upon that principle he should legislate, and he should for that reason prefer that the Bill that had been before the Council was before it now.

The Hon. F. Ryrie said the Company did not want relief.

The Governor said that so far as he understood, his duty to the public was to endeavour by every legitimate means to remove all obstacles in the way of any legitimate trade or occupation. A Bill was introduced into that Council for the purpose of assimilating the law of these Companies to that of England. On the occasion of that Bill being thrown out he voted in favour of its consideration being discontinued mainly because the Chief Justice objected to that principle in toto. This Bill necessarily grew out of that one. He understood that the main objection of the Chief Justice to the previous Bill was the reduction of shares to small amounts, two or three dollars as he has mentioned, but here was a wholly different state of affairs. This Bill was a permissive Bill, and it empowered the Company, by a majority of votes, to reduce the shares one third in amount. He had no hesitation in submitting this Bill for the consideration of the Council; he was not about to oppose it, but he merely wished to explain why the Bill was introduced. No doubt the Council would deal with the Bill as they thought fit.

The Hon. H. Lowcock observed that the only difference would be the clause giving power to the Consular officers.

The Hon. J. Bramston said that was the only difference, but that of course could

Hon. H. Lowcock,
Hon. W. Keswick.

Against Amendment.

Hon. G. May.

Hon. J. Bramston.

Hon. J. G. Austin.

Hon. Sir John Smale.

His Excellency the Governor.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Council having gone into committee on the second reading of the bill the Chief Justice remarked that there was no evidence before the Council that the allegations set forth in the recital were facts. He wished to have some evidence.

His Excellency the Governor then moved that the officials of the China Traders' Company should be called upon to prepare themselves with evidence before the Council either *via voc* or *documentary*, to prove the allegations set out in the preamble.

The Hon. W. Keswick thought that time should be given to those at a distance to state their views, and he should like to have the proposition of the Chief Justice, of advertisements being given in the local papers, carried out. In all probability some shareholders might have objections to any change. He did not say that there were, but it was only fair to give them a chance to state their views also.

The Hon. J. G. Austin thought the Council could not act without proof.

The Hon. J. G. Austin thought the Council should appear before the bar of the Council, either by Counsel or otherwise, to prove the allegations set forth in the preamble, on a certain day, and that notice should be given that the world at large might have the chance of stating their views before the Council.

The Hon. J. G. Austin seconded the motion.

H. E. then proposed to adjourn the consideration of this bill *sine die*, so as to allow all persons interested, even those in Europe, to state their views, as suggested by the Hon. W. Keswick, to state their views.

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